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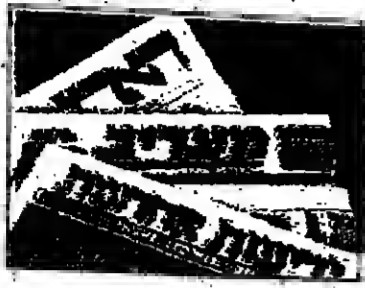
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3

Hebrew press review



9 Arts & Entertainment

The young George Michael



20 Sports

Inbar wins world silver

INDEX

Arts & Entertainment	9
Business	13
Living	12
Movies, TV, Crossword	19
Opinion	10
Sports	20

Nov. CPI surprisingly down 0.3%

By DAVID HARRIS

Inflation this year is heading for eight percent, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics, following yesterday's publication of the November consumer price index, which registered a fall of 0.3%, to 153.6 points.

Within that figure, the housing index fell 1.5% and the cost of fruit and vegetables by 3.2%.

Job seeking up 1.2%, Page 13

Economists had predicted the CPI would rise by 0.3%-0.5%. "This is only one month and should not be taken in isolation," said bureau spokesman David Neumann.

October's CPI increased 1.2% and economists say the two must be seen together. The average for the last two months was close to 0.5%.

Economist Haim Ben-Shahar predicted that 1998 inflation could well fall between 4%-5%, if the correct government policies are followed. This means keeping to tight fiscal policy and not allowing public sector wage agreements to deliver real increases.

Full story, Page 13



In memory of Nachshon Wachsman

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu shakes hands with Labor Party leader Ehud Barak during yesterday's dedication of the Nachshon Wachsman Center for Tolerance and Understanding in Jerusalem, as the center's head, Prof. Binyamin Ish-Shalom, looks on. During the ceremony, the leaders signed a tolerance declaration entitled 'Peace in Israel.'

(Brian Henders)

Clinton welcomes Khatami remarks

By HILLEL KUTTLER and JAY BUSHINSKY

WASHINGTON - US President Bill Clinton said yesterday he was "encouraged" that Iranian President Mohammed Khatami said he would welcome a dialogue with the American people.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said it is too early to judge whether Teheran was actually changing.

"I was encouraged by Mr. Khatami's statement," Clinton told reporters. "It was welcome. And I will say again: I would like nothing better than to have a dialogue with Iran, as long as we can have an honest discussion of all the relevant issues."

"We remain concerned about the

sponsorship of terrorism, about violent attacks on the peace process, about development or acquisition of weapons of mass destruction, and we will continue to be concerned about those things. But I was quite encouraged by the president's statement, and I think the American people should be," Clinton added.

The US has long maintained it was amenable to resuming contacts with Teheran, provided the interlocutors were official representatives, and that any dialogue was publicly acknowledged.

Clinton's statements, coming just a day after Khatami's remarks, seemed meant to acknowledge it considers the approach as sincere.

See CLINTON, Page 2

Senior gov't source: No pullback till June

By JAY BUSHINSKY and LIAT COLLINS

A government decision on the scope of the IDF's next withdrawal will not be made until the end of next month at the earliest, and the actual pullback will not take place until June, a senior source predicted yesterday.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu evidently will have this timetable in mind when he confers with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in Paris on Thursday. He will convene the cabinet for another session on redeployment this afternoon, and expects the four-member ministerial team to discuss it again after his return from France and Luxembourg on Thursday. Next week, all of the government's ministers will tour the West Bank areas under discussion.

Netanyahu has asked Foreign Minister David Levy to accompany him to Paris and participate in the talks with Albright at the private residence of Ambassador Avi Pazner. But Levy will not make a decision until after today's cabinet meeting. Cabinet secretary Dan Naveh is to accompany Netanyahu.

Although Albright is scheduled to meet Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in London, the idea of turning this into a three-sided session or holding an Israeli-Palestinian summit there apparently has been dropped. The source said it is essential for the government to proceed cautiously and to weigh every move.

"This is not something that will be over in a flash," he said. He conceded that there still are differences between the maps drawn by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, but described them as "much less than meets the eye."

Netanyahu intends to bring a set of maps with him to London, but

they will be for illustrative purposes and not represent precise and binding geographical commitments, the source said.

The refusal to specify an exact percentage was justified on the grounds that premature disclosure would prompt Palestinian demands for a more extensive withdrawal "and could set the stage for a crisis."

He contends that the Palestinians' initial expectations have been substantially reduced. "At the outset, they thought they would be given 92 percent of the West Bank," he said, "with at least 30 percent to be ceded to them in each pullback."

One of the as-yet unresolved topographical problems is the route to be followed by the new

Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway extension, known as Route 45, which begins at Ben-Shimon, passes through Nahal Modi'in, skirts Ramallah, and ends near Ramot. The mapmakers want it to be incorporated in one of the projected security zones.

Netanyahu's rationale for discussing these details with Albright is based on the belief that the US should be kept informed and given periodical updates on the cabinet's deliberations on the assumption that the US will convey this information to the Palestinians.

Netanyahu told the Likud Knesset faction that the government is drawing up a document with its demands for the Palestinians. He said the previous government decided the scope of the redeployment and only afterwards its security needs.

"We are doing it the other way round," he said.

Netanyahu said there are only small differences between the maps drawn up by Mordechai and Sharon, because under the terms of the Oslo Accords, not only Israel's security needs but its settlement needs must be met.

"It's important the public knows the direction in which we are going," he said. "We are making our bottom line clear."

Likud MK Ze'ev Begin asked what is entailed in the five months in which the way the Palestinians abide by their commitments will be examined.

Mordechai: Withdrawal may harm some West Bank settlements

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and TIM

"There is a possibility that the second redeployment will cause some damage to settlements in Judea and Samaria, but I understand that if there is any, it will be very small," Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday during a visit to Ariel.

His words brought an angry reaction from the leaders of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, with whom he met.

"We're talking about an extremely difficult meeting, one to which it is very hard to come up with an immediate response to," said council chairman Pinhas Wallerstein. "But it is certain that we will be meeting soon to discuss this seriously."

"Mordechai did not speak of



Ariel Mayor Ron Nahman (Eliahu Harari)

evacuating settlements, that would violate the [Oslo] Accords, but he was speaking about some settlements. For example, I have doubts whether Ariel residents will be able

to drive directly to Jerusalem." As Mordechai arrived for the meeting, 10 demonstrators protested the proposed withdrawal. Mordechai approached the demonstrators, but quickly left them in anger saying: "Don't attempt to lecture me."

Ariel spokeswoman Sondra Oster Baras said that Mordechai had referred to the two maps, one based on security interests and the other on "national interests," such as roads and water resources. He said are being used as reference maps in the current cabinet discussions.

The settlers are facing a dilemma, said Ariel Mayor Ron Nahman, in that the government, which the settlers fought so hard to have elected, has not supplied them with facts regarding the withdrawal.

See MORDECHAI, Page 2

See PULLBACK, Page 2

Change in Iran may occur, but slowly

Iranian President Mohammed Khatami's moderate tone may mark the beginning of an important change in Iran, according to Prof. David Menashri, who holds the

Menashri said. Still, Menashri cautions that the current change is far from what would quickly generate a full-fledged US-Iran rapprochement.

BACKGROUND

By DAVID RUDGE

Nazarin Chair for Modern Iranian Studies at Tel Aviv University. However, it is far too early to judge if Khatami's state-

ment represents a "slight breeze" or a definite change. One should not only follow Teheran's words, Menashri said, but also its tone.

For his part, Menashri believes Teheran's change is substantive.

"Khatami has raised some ideas that were difficult for many Iranians to accept for a long time, such as the need for dialogue, and to discuss issues with other countries, including the US," he said.

An indication of pending change is Khatami's repetition of his remarks: twice at last week's Islamic summit and then in a press conference Sunday. It has been customary in Iran for officials who raised relatively moderate arguments to be forced to ultimately retreat from them in the face of massive criticism, Menashri explained.

The fact the Khatami held this press conference on Sunday and not only reiterated the same arguments, but took them one step further "is in itself a signal that something important is going on."

could be seen from his speech to the Islamic Conference last week, Menashri said.

Khatami has at least a theoretical mandate, after being elected in May by 70 percent of the electorate. According to Menashri, that is still not enough to counter Khatami.

The election result did show that 19 years after the revolution, people's expectations that the Islamic regime would ease or solve their difficulties have not been fully realized, Menashri said. There's a growing realization that Iran needs to focus on domestic issues and that to achieve improvements for the common people, compromise should be made with dogma.

"The mood among the people in Iran, as expressed by Khatami, indicates they want change, and Khatami has not hesitated to talk about important topics which until now had been regarded as taboo. Only time will tell, however, how successful he will be," Menashri said.

Indyk, Assad meet Syrian VP receives MK Bashara

DAMASCUS (Reuters) - Syrian President Hafez Assad held five hours of talks with US Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk yesterday on how to revive the Syrian-Israeli peace talks.

Presidential spokesman Joubran Kourieh said the talks covered the peace process and "the importance of abiding by the principles on which the process was based."

"The talks covered bilateral ties and the appropriate atmosphere to

develop them," Kourieh said. He said Foreign Minister Farouk Shara and US Ambassador to Syria Christopher Ross were present at the meeting.

Officials said Indyk, visiting Syria as part of a Middle East tour, had talks earlier with Shara on the latest developments in the peace process and "ways of reaching a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East."

Indyk refused to answer reporters' questions after his talks with Shara, but diplomats said he was carrying fresh ideas on resuming the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. Also in Syria was MK Azmi Bashara (Hadashi), who said there could be no Palestinian state or right of return with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in power.

See INDYK, Page 2

Handling the under-sexed ostrich

By JUDY SEGEL

Agriculture researchers at the Hebrew University are not the sort to stick their heads in the sand when animals are having sexual problems.

A group of experts recently got around a problem with ostriches who were showing more attraction to their human handlers than to birds of the opposite sex.

They did this by creating a *menage a trois* arrangement in which the handler would remain on the scene without interfering with a sexual encounter between an avian pair.

Far from being a matter of entertainment, boosting ostrich reproduction is an economic issue, given that the country is second in the world, behind South Africa in ostrich-raising.

The unusual project, financed by the Rashi Foundation, involved Assaf Navot of the HU Faculty of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Quality Sciences in Rehovot, working under the supervision of Dr. Israel Rozenbolm, Dr. Gadi Gvoryahu, Nachum Snopir, all from Hebrew University, and Prof. Allan Degen, of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

The researchers found that without intervention,

bred ostriches were showing the fertility rate of a high-powered yuppie couple in the suburbs.

The fertility of their eggs averages only 50 percent, which is at the low end of chick production compared to other cultivated fowl.

Since the ostrich is often pig-headed and sometimes violent, attempts by farmers to increase the number of offspring have been very difficult.

Navot has found that the reproduction of bred ostriches could be improved by introducing a male and a female who are attracted to their handlers, in the presence of one of the handlers.

This technique "enhances their sexual arousal," Navot said.

As the ostriches mate, the handler - using a special technique - collects semen from the male for later use in artificial insemination.

This has proven to be a more efficient and effective method than natural reproduction.

The team has even succeeded to a certain extent in tempting male ostriches to ejaculate by showing them female ostrich "sex dolls."

But technical problems have made it hard to collect the semen.

They have stopped short of trying pomographic movies.

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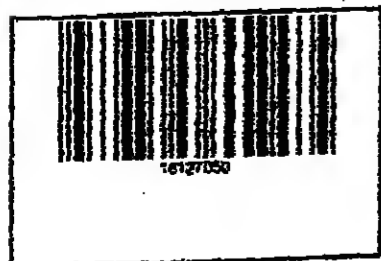
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Farrakhan cancels Temple Mount visit

Round one, Farrakhan

By ELLI WOHLGELERWITZ and news agencies

The much-anticipated visit by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan to the Temple Mount was abruptly canceled yesterday when he learned that Jewish groups planned to protest his presence at the site.

"If anything should happen to me in this land it could not bring good results in black-Jewish relations in the United States, so in the interest of peace I think it is best that I leave," he told reporters in Ramallah.

Unconfirmed reports said Farrakhan, who is known for his vitriolic antisemitic remarks, received death threats.

Two right-wing groups, Hai Vekayam and Victims of Arab Terror, petitioned the High Court

of Justice yesterday morning to keep Farrakhan out of Jerusalem. But one hour before the court was to begin its hearing, Farrakhan announced that he would not visit the capital, and the court canceled the hearing.

"I understand... that there are those who would honor their right to demonstrate and to obstruct my going in to pray," Farrakhan said to reporters, before boarding a bus that took him to the Allenby Bridge to cross into Jordan. "We don't get a favorable sign from the government that I am welcome, and no one pledged security for us."

Hai Vekayam leader Yehuda Etzion, who denied threatening Farrakhan, said he expected the black leader to make another attempt to visit the capital next month, and that Hai Vekayam would go ahead with its High

Court petition.

Police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said he had heard rumors that another militant group, the Ideological Froot, had threatened Farrakhan to keep him from coming to Israel.

Beo-Ruby said that there had been no police contact with Farrakhan, but that "we intended to guard him with a police force. This was our plan."

Another right-wing organization, Jerusalem Is Ours, requested a permit from police to demonstrate against Farrakhan near the Western Wall.

"We didn't threaten, but we told police that we would not let him go up to the Temple Mount," said Danny Danon, head of the group. "Everyoone says he shouldn't come, but nobody does anything about it."

"I can understand if there is anger in some of the Israeli citizens because of what they have heard and read about me," Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan said yesterday.

"I can assure you that if I was antisemitic and hated the Jewish people, then this is the last place I would want to be."

That would seem to make sense, on the face of it, but such is the guile of Farrakhan that he can fool you with his mere presence - or, as was the case yesterday, his mere absence.

Twenty-four hours after arriving in Palestinian-controlled Area A, Louis Farrakhan was gone, his visit to the Temple Mount canceled, his lightning visit over.

The reason, Farrakhan said, was that he was concerned for his safety, that he was not given assurances about his protection. "The reason he said that he left - that Israel couldn't provide for his safety - is poppycock," said Abraham Foxman, director of the

Anti-Defamation League. "He said he was coming in January, and then he snuck in. The responsibility is his for not coming with proper notice. He broke trust with the Israeli government, and it doesn't owe him any courtesy in the future."

Foxman and many others believe yesterday's visit was not a one-time trip, but just a dry run for a second attempt next month.

While negotiations between Farrakhan's people and the government had been ongoing over how he would be greeted when he arrived here, Farrakhan wanted to know where he really stood. So he just showed up. Round one, Farrakhan.

Whatever our doubt about it, whatever our criticism of Louis Farrakhan, we have to say that he is an extremely clever person, and not an easy adversary, to say the least," said Rabbi Marvin Heir,

dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

"If I was antisemitic..." said Farrakhan, as if his 25-year history of well-documented quotes can lead to any other conclusion.

"What the Israelis don't know is who this man is, what he really represents," said Foxman. "He's a racist, a bigot, and an anusemic, who has embraced in the past several years all the dictators and rejectionist countries of the Third World."

"He is sinister, cynical, and fuels all the classical canards of antisemitism."

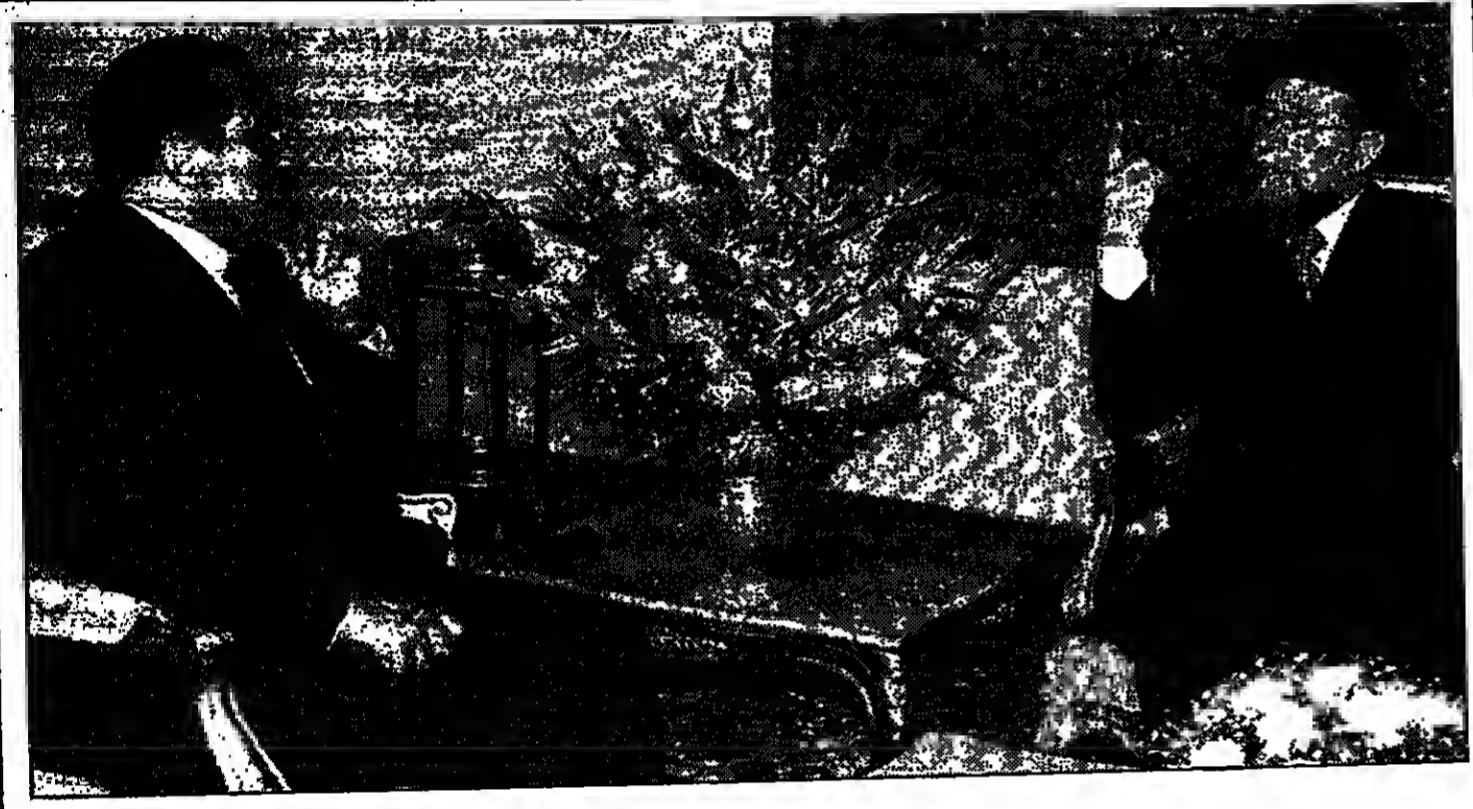
The danger, said Heir, is the influence he wields on the black community, which cannot distinguish between his positive message of self-reliance and his racism.

"They don't realize there were good things in a lot of demagogues in history, even Adolf

Hitler, who built the Volkswagen and the autobahn. But we're not going to run a conference on the good things of Adolf Hitler, because they were by far outweighed by the bad things; and we feel that Louis Farrakhan has been a demagogue, he's been irresponsible in addressing Jewish concerns, he's been a hater toward Jews, and we're not prepared to overlook that."

Foxman, who has been in the forefront in the fight against Farrakhan and been personally attacked by the black leader, said he isn't looking for him to change his tune.

"I don't need an apology from him. I need him to just stop," Foxman said. "Stop selling The Protocols of the Elders of Zion, stop peddling Martin Luther's antisemitic writings from 500 years ago. And stop pinning on Jews the mother of all evils - that we as Jews are responsible for all that is wrong in the black community, from the until now."



Making a point
Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau gestures during his meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday. For peace to be realized, spiritual leaders must 'speak about peace and condemn terror and violence,' Lau told his host. (Reuters)

Lieberman to run for World Likud head

By NICHAL YUDELMAN

Avigdor Lieberman, the former director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, announced yesterday he would contend for the chairmanship of the World Likud Convention and not that of the Jewish Agency.

Lieberman denied he was running for the post to take revenge against WLC chairman Ronni Milo, who is one of Prime Minister

Binyamin Netanyahu's most prominent opponents in the Likud. He said he respects Milo, whom he regards as "one of the most intelligent and sophisticated politicians we have... it's an honor to run against him."

He said he is interested in the post because "we have lost a great deal due to the neglect of the Likud's contacts in the world and especially in the United States."

Asked about the list of delegates

to the WLC, which he allegedly manipulated so that it gave him a majority in the coming elections, Lieberman said, "I do not attribute any importance to one list or another. It's a marginal issue. I have... a lot to offer, and I feel sure of being elected by any list."

Lieberman said he does not intend to run for the position of Jewish Agency chairman, adding he considers Sallai Meridor the prime minister's candidate.

NRP: We support Hammer

By LIAT COLLINS

The National Religious Party faction meeting yesterday dwelt on the reports that attempts are being made to oust Education Minister Zevulun Hammer as NRP leader while he is hospitalized.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy yesterday visited Hammer in hospital.

NRP whip Hanan Porat opened the meeting by expressing his

"disgust" with the reports that Levy would replace Hammer as education minister and Knesset Law Committee Chairman Shaul Yahalom would replace Levy as transport minister. should Hammer resign.

MK Nissan Slomiansky he had no knowledge of such moves but he believed the press had not simply invented the story.

Several NRP members pointed a finger at Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi as the person

possibly behind the attempt to oust Hammer.

"I am not holding any meetings or conventions," said Bibi in response. "Hammer is our minister and Hammer is our party leader and we all pray for his recovery. Nobody is setting their sights on his job. We all have our own positions and are all happy in them."

The faction announced it stood behind Hammer and hoped for his speedy recovery.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

A tale of two maps

At his meeting with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is to present his second redeployment plan, which is "currently covered with a thick layer of fog," *Ma'ariv's* Yusef Lapid writes. He adds that based on the maps Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon suggested, "no agreement... would stand a chance."

In his article "Bibi's search for an alibi," *Ha'aretz's* Uzi Benziman claims that government discussions regarding "interest maps," allegedly focusing on the security needs as the basis for planning the redeployments, are no more than "an alibi to provide a reason for the government's refusal to touch settlements or redeploy." He adds that if the government does not relocate the settlements, it may be difficult for the IDF to protect them and it is likely that the final-status negotiations will fail.

A turn to the West

Iranian President Mohammed Khatami's recent and unprecedented statement at a press conference, conveying his interest in opening a dialogue with the American people, was received both with optimism and suspicion by the media.

"Khatami would have liked to start a revolution in the ties between his country and the external world, but his hands are tied," *Ma'ariv's* Oded Granot writes, referring to the influence of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who holds the opposite opinions.

According to *Yedioth's* Smadar Perry, Israel believes that Teheran's motive is to "remove obstacles to Iranian arms purchases, until it completes its conventional and unconventional armament."

Guy Bechor of *Ha'aretz* writes that according to the US and Israel, Iran's moderation is the result of

pressure on Iran which created a split between the Iranian people and the leadership. This pressure should continue, he adds, "if Iran is to open up to the world."

Sara uncensored

An abundance of commentary filled the Hebrew press following *Yedioth Aharonot's* revealing weekend article concerning the prime minister's wife, Sara

Netanyahu. "There is a reasonable fear that Israel's prime minister, the man who is considered - at least in his own eyes - to be a great expert in terrorism, is held hostage by his own wife," *Ma'ariv's* Amnon Dankner writes.

He adds that although this is not of public interest it "is a personal tragedy that has the dangerous potential of becoming a national tragedy... the danger lies in the

fact that it is unthinkable that an Israeli prime minister would be subjected to daily extortion."

Amnon Sbonnon, also writing in *Ma'ariv*, claims that this is yet another attempt to get rid of Netanyahu.

"This time, Netanyahu has to face the mounting gossip and eliminate it or else... it will haunt him and terminate him," he writes, adding that Netanyahu must sue *Yedioth*.

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Unless you are doing business in Asia, you may yet be unaware that an economic disaster is in progress there. It's time to sit up and pay attention.

During the great Wall Street stock market boom of the past few years, the gurus tried to predict where the next inevitable "correction" would come from.

Poring over their charts from 1988, they were convinced research and analysis had become so sophisticated, a soft landing would be easy to plan. When the crunch came bounding out of Hong Kong at the end of October — no one had anticipated or predicted it.

Collapsing currencies in Thailand, Malaysia or South Korea were then shrugged off in the West as a passing irritant — the Tigris caught a chill, that's all.

The irritation was compounded by a very irritating Mahathir Mohammed, prime minister of Malaysia, who blamed all his country's growing woes on American and European speculators. Nobody could recall him blaming them for Malaysia's previous economic boom — that was all his doing.

Yesterday the Indonesian rupiah was the latest to hit a record low against the dollar, dropping to 40 percent of its value a year ago. The reported illness of the old dictator Suharto is fueling growing fears of social chaos if the country's Suharto family band should suddenly stop playing.

Abuse excuse

The worst crisis so far has hit South Korea, the most worrying one is developing in Japan. The International Monetary Fund has allocated an astounding 100 billion dollar prop to help shore up the swaying economic skyscrapers of Asia.

The reaction of the afflicted nations has been interesting. In one way it is a very human reaction, like helping someone oewly injured. Instead of being grateful, the victim may yell abuse and demand more help. Fear is the clue to the response.

So, the very same Mahathir who a month ago was screaming at Westerners to stop interfering in his country's economy was screaming yesterday at an ASEAN meeting that the West isn't doing enough. More aid is needed than the IMF has provided so far, he told the Association of South East Asian Nations.

In South Korea there have been protests in the streets at the strictures imposed by the IMF as part of its aid package. The complaints have been echoed by Korean officials.

It is tempting to say "you folks have made a mess of your economies, you took all the credit when they were tigers, now it's everyone else's fault when they fail, and when the West comes up with rapid help, you whine about it. Suggestions please?"

Cold feet
Yet Asian frustration over the accelerating crisis is all very understandable, even if Mahathir's paranoid unpleasantness is not.

However, demands for more aid is all very well as long as the West remains standing on its economic feet. Can it do so? The orthodox view is that the United States and Europe are not

only doing very well, but are getting stronger. The catch is, faith in economic orthodoxy is not what it used to be.

The only orthodox eternal truth that seems to remain unchallenged is the concept of confidence. A crisis that is at least semi-global is in progress, so — hands up all those who still have full confidence in the global village econ-

omy. Confidence is not a measurable parameter. Try constructing an economic model that factors in the cold feet of a banker facing an Asian borrower. Try calculating how many millions of investor feet are already feeling chilly.

This is unknown territory but if, for example, you are an Israeli microchip maker trading on the New York exchange, don't expect the investors to continue being overawed that you are big in Japan or South Korea. Three months ago the quarterly reports of such companies would boast of their successes in Thailand, Korea, or the Philippines. You will probably need a magnifier to find details of their Asian exposure in the end-of-year reports.

No problems

Want to continue selling jewelry to the fashionable ladies of Thailand or Japan? Or construction materials to their husbands? It's better to start looking towards the fashion-conscious and the new builders in Europe or North America for the present.

No one can say if the under-tow from Asia will start to drag down Western growth. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) yesterday issued a fairly upbeat report, whose only fault may be that it remains stuck in conservative orthodoxy. Not to worry, said the OECD. Global output might fall by one percent because of the Asian implosion, but even in Asia the economic fundamentals remain sound and IMF measures will promote a recovery.

The European Union is robust and growing stronger, the United States is solid as a rock. Wonderful! So why should Americans worry about a flood of cheap Asian imports, or about more American jobs being exported to even cheaper places? Why should Europeans worry about the intractable 10-12 percent unemployment across the 15 EU states? It's all a matter of confidence. Feel confident.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer



Budapest. Hungarians played leading roles in creating the A-bomb, the ballpoint pen, the computer and what not. (David Robinson)

Great Hungarian car, that Model T

Though better known for its cuisine, the small country on the Danube has produced some of history's most notable inventions

By MICHAEL RODDY

BUDAPEST — Hungary is famous for giving the world goulash and paprika, but how about the ballpoint pen, the television camera, the atomic bomb and the Ford Model T?

The snap response might be they're all American inventions, with the possible exception of the ballpoint, but better think again.

Hungarians did play a major role in making the bomb — and television, the computer, the ballpoint pen, the world's first mass production car and a host of other inventions that changed the face of the 20th century.

They even claim credit for the word which, with variations, means passenger transportation in much of the world: the coach.

"Some people say 'coach' is an English word but there is a Hungarian village called Kocsik (pronounced: coach-k) and the light coach for horses was a Hungarian invention," said Andras Vedres, secretary general of the Association of Hungarian Inventors.

For a country of only 10 million people, the list is impressive. And it goes on. ("Absolute geometry, torsion balance, the

carburetor...") Jozsef Hegyhati, under secretary of state in the Ministry of Industry and Trade, says "there is a great tradition of invention in Hungary." He rattles off a stream of inventions which schoolchildren here learn are Hungarian, or were made by Hungarians abroad.

Hegyhati was presenting awards at a ceremony honoring a new crop of Hungarian inventors who hope there might be a market out there for a chainless bicycle, a foot-massaging shoe and, inevitably, paprika oil. They may not be as important as the electrical transformer or the power plant cooling tower — also Hungarian — but the tradition lives on.

"Hungary is very poor in mineral wealth and energy but what we have is well qualified and talented people," Hegyhati said.

"That is why more and more corporations are deciding to establish their research and development facilities here, because in Hungary there is a great capacity to do research."

That's true today, and was true at the turn of the century when the capital Budapest was one of the fastest growing cities in Europe, alive with scientists, artists and would-be moguls.

But in between came two world wars and communism. Therein lies the reason many "Hungarian" inventions carry labels "made in USA," and why descendants of those inventors who left Hungary, or sold their patent rights, sometimes fight lonely battles to see credit given where they believe credit is due.

Case in point — the television camera. This has been kept secret from the general public, that the true inventor of this quite revolutionary invention, is my father," said Katalin Tihanyi Glass, daughter of the late Hungarian inventor Kalman Tihanyi.

"He sacrificed his life as people do who are serious about invention. But the credit has been taken away from him because he died before he was able to reclaim it," she said.

Glass, who lives in Los Angeles but spends much of her time in Hungary, has mounted a personal crusade to convince the world that her father, a prolific Hungarian inventor who died in 1947 at age 49, invented an electronic storage system that made television possible.

Without the storage system, only a wan image could be transmitted to a phosphorescent

screen. With it, you could watch "I Love Lucy".

Credit for the invention generally goes to the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) and the chief of its laboratories in the 1930s, the Russian-American Vladimir Zworidn.

But Glass said her father patented the storage device, which Zworidn later manufactured in the mid-1930s, in 1928. Many sold patent rights, but that was all, she said.

"My father did not agree for this invention to be called somebody else's," Glass said.

She wants the world to acknowledge her father's contribution. A "payment of goodwill" from the electronics industry would be welcome, but she seems equally keen on convincing the Smithsonian Institution in Washington to change its "Information Age" exhibition to acknowledge Tihanyi.

"We've met her several times. And she is an absolutely magnificent researcher who's come up with some good points," said Elliot Sivovitch of the Smithsonian's department of information technology, electricity and modern physics.

"But I think she's a little miffed at us because everything works

very slowly in a bureaucracy and exhibit labels are hard to correct," Sivovitch said in a telephone interview.

Sivovitch said the museum has been working on a new exhibition on high-definition television and might produce a brochure on the history of television, mentioning Tihanyi.

"There are several countries, when you describe their output (of inventions) they have had some particular talent stream," Sivovitch said. "For a small country, the contribution of Hungarians is outstanding."

"Outstanding" is exactly the word the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs uses in its fact sheet, "The Contributions of Hungarians ... to Universal Culture" ("...radioactive tracing, the nuclear power plant, thermoelectric fusion...") It lists Jozsef Galamb (1881-1955) as "designer of the famous Model T, the first mass-produced car," and Ladislao Jose Biro (1899-1985) as "inventor of the ball-point pen." Janos Neumann is "the father of computers" by dint of his work in informatics.

And the atomic bomb? Edward Teller and Leo Szilard, both of whom worked on the Manhattan Project. Ask any Hungarian.

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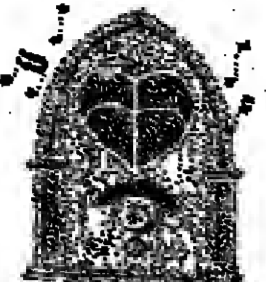
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Bubble gum for the masses

In Tune



By David Brinn

It's time for the end-of-year cleanup when those discs that have been gathering dust at the bottom of the pile clamor to be heard. And what do they scream? "Pop!" The term "pop music" has always been stamped by us rock connoisseurs as something disposable, with no lasting power. And upon listening to the latest pop releases, that assessment still rings true. Whether light as whipped cream or sugary as a *sufganiot*, one thing that unifies the following artists is their sweetness. So let's get happy and dive into the goo.

THE BEST of Wham may sound like an oxymoron. But George Michael's

- THE BEST OF WHAM
Wham (NMC)
- LIKE YOU DO... BEST OF LIGHTNING SEEDS
Lightning Seeds (NMC)
- TRULY... THE LOVE SONGS
Lionel Richie (Telicon)
- POSTCARDS FROM HEAVEN
Lighthouse Family (Telicon)
- O PARASIO
("Parade")
Madredeus (NMC)

adolescent alliance with Andrew Ridgley, who has since gone on to Trivial Pursuit infamy, actually crafted one endearingly soulful dance music and pop ballads.
The duo's squeaky clean production and awkward attempts at



George Michael's (left) adolescent alliance with Andrew Ridgley resulted in some endearingly soulful dance music and pop ballads.

rap-style material aside, their hits (based on three albums) hint at the semi-talent that would soon make Michael a journeyman soulster in his own right. But please don't make me listen to "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go" ever again.
Sentimental and mushy, there's still a craft to this, and Richie does it better than almost anyone. This includes the duet with Diana Ross "Endless Love," the mega-hit "Hello" and one of the all-time best slow-dance songs, "Three Times a Lady." Where's my prom tux?
Listening to their greatest hits - which also comes after three whole albums - is a guilty pleasure, like sneaking a yummy, fattening dessert with absolutely no nutritional value. This includes their hit remake of the Byrds-written, Turtles-performed 1960s gem, "You Shook Me."
SOMEONE MUCH more deserved of a greatest hits collec-

tion is R&B crooner Lionel Richie who racked up 13 Top 10 hits between 1981 and 1987. This collections centers on Richie's love songs from his solo career as well as earlier tunes from his days with the Commodores.
Combining delectable dance rhythms with lyrics, the groups calls itself R&B or soul, but such an appellation probably has Muddy Waters and Marvin Gaye spinning in their graves.
Their second album, *Postcards From Heaven* is fairly consistent within the limited confines. "High" is delectable single material and an album highlight. The bottom line is that their highly produced tracks could be appropriate for the dance floor or background music, but they lack the imagination and luster that makes a fair album a good one. Just as white bread can be tasty, *Postcards* has its moments.
MADREDEUS IS what happens when two leading Portuguese pop stars (Pedro Ayres and Rodrigo Leo) get bored with the standard fare they're churning out, and begin writing tunes for two acoustic guitars. Ayres began writing lyrics to fit, while imag-

ining the sort of "voice" that might sing them.
One night at a club, their attention was drawn to a young woman who suddenly began to sing fado, traditional Portuguese folk music, at a table where she was sitting with a group of friends. This was how they first met the then-teenager Teresa Salgueiro, whom they quickly invited to an audiotape. After the first few songs, the musicians realized that they had found the voice they had been looking for.
Since that event in 1986 they have put out a few albums, and had their ups and downs. *O Parasio* is actually Madredeus's comeback album after a recent breakup. Madredeus sings of love, dreams, spring and the good things in life. Put it on and politics, strikes and the daily grind melt away. So, in the spirit of national harmony, grab a Brazilian frioleto to translate the lyrics, sit back and enjoy an hour's worth of paradise.

'L.A. Confidential' sweeps critics' awards

L.A. Confidential has been judged the best movie of 1997 as the Los Angeles Film Critics Association added its vote to those already bestowed by the New York Film Critics and National Board of Review.
The movie's director, Curtis Hanson, also was chosen Saturday by Los Angeles film critics as best director for the film noir about crooked cops in 1950s Los Angeles, which was adapted from the James Ellroy novel. The film also won best screenplay (Hanson and Brian Koppelman), and best cinematography (Dante Spinotti).
The New York Film Critics gave L.A. Confidential best film and director nods. Two days earlier, the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures, gave best movie and director honors to L.A. Confidential, which was also named best screenplay by the National Board of Review.
Other best picks by Los Angeles Film Critics Association: Actress - Helena Bonham-Carter,

Wings of the Dove. Actor - Robert Duvall, The Apostle. Supporting Actress - Julianne Moore, Boogie Nights. Supporting Actor - Burt Reynolds, Boogie Nights. New Generation - Paul Thomas Anderson, Boogie Nights, Hard Eight. Foreign Film - Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne, La Promise. Documentary - Michael Uys, Lexy Lovell, Riding the Rails. Production Design - Peter Lamont, Titanic. Animation - John Musker, Rool Clements, Hercules and Troy Parker, Matt Stone, The Spirit of Christmas. Music/Score - Philip Glass, Kundun. Career Achievement - Joseph H. Lewis. Special Citation - Peter Bogdanovich, for contributions since 1960, interviews of directors and his 1997 book, Who the Devil Made It. (AP)



Tabloid journalist Sid Hodgeons (Danny DeVito, left) schmoozes with high-profile cop Jack Vincennes (Kevin Spacey) in 'L.A. Confidential.'

Cross-dressing on the 'Dunes'

Tahar Ben Jalon's 'Down among the Dunes' (Hebrew title, *Bein Hahator*) is one of 14 minor productions listed by the New Fringe Center and scheduled to play on the small stages of Tzavta and ZOA House.
They will be found to be rewarding by all theatergoers concerned about the future of serious local drama.
A bright beacon as regards quality of content, performance, and presentation, they range from *The Treatment (Hanipul)*, already reviewed here as subtle, sophisticated avant garde, to pieces like *Yearnings for Kissinger*, mini-

Wish, also playing here, *Down among the Dunes*, while performed in Hebrew, is based on an Arabic text. A well-known actress, Rivka Bechar gives a virtuoso performance in the role of Ahmed, the last of eight daughters born to a disappointed Moroccan father who had expected this child to be a son. In his frustration, he decides to raise her as the man she should have been.
Female impersonators are no rarity on our stages. But a woman who plays a man is something of a phenomenon. Shaven-headed, in flowing Moroccan galabiah, Bechar builds a moving portrait of a tragic, tormented personality torn between the urges of her gut femininity and the acquired mannerisms of her macho upbringing.
As a male impersonator, her characterization is formidable. Visceral body language, expressive eye and mouth movement, and a flexible vocal range are incorporated to make a more than convincing figure. Her presentation does not, however, end there. Exploiting the story-teller's treatment embodied in the text, she peoples the stage with a host of indigenous Moslem Moroccan types that conjure up the manners and mores of that onion with striking verisimilitude.

THEATER REVIEW

DOWN AMONG THE DUNES
'Bein Hahator'
by Tahar Ben Jalon
Direction, HBI's Neemaan
At ZOA House, Tel Aviv

The serene spirituality of Fauré's Requiem

The Fauré Requiem is not as grandiose as that of Verdi, not as philosophical as that of Brahms or as emotionally loaded as that of Mozart.
Fauré Requiem is a much more spiritual than dramatic work, a very French opus which is more serene than somber, more evocative than mesmerizing. Yet it is a magical opus that captivates the audience in its purity and simplic-

ity. And all these qualities of the Requiem emerged under Antonio Pappano's delicate baton, a very poetic reading of a work that has its own special charm and aura. The Slovak Philharmonic Choir was superb, soprano Juanita Lascarra sang her beautiful "Pie Jesu" solo with majestic purity and delicate spirituality of the voice, and baritone Nathan Gunn provided his solos with agility. But above all, it was the combina-

tion of orchestra and chorus that made this performance shine.
The orchestra was also superb playing the haunting *Pavane* by Fauré and the quite dramatic Third (*Liturgique*) Symphony by Honnegger, a didactic programmatic opus about a world losing itself and its humanity, yet a piece that has its moments of dramatic beauty and charm. IPO principal flutist Yossi Amheim had several beautiful solos in this 20th-century program, which was well chosen, well presented and extremely well performed by the IPO and its chief guest conductor.
Michael Ajzenstadt

IPO
Fauré and Honnegger
Mann Auditorium
December 14

European definition in geography books. The subtle nuances of ornamentations and dynamics were exhibited by Ramiz Guliev from Azerbaijan on the tar (long-necked lute). Diversified though these various traditions are, their common denominator, improvisation, was demonstrated even in some composed pieces.
The local musicians who joined the foreign masters displayed a fair degree of adaptability and receptiveness to their guests' styles rather than engaging in a musical dialogue with them. In this sense, the encounter proved enriching.

MIDDLE EASTERN MUSIC TRADITIONS
Zionist Confederation House
December 10

The most pretentious Israeli piece, by Israel Borachov and his group, turned out to be the poorest one musically: would-be Bolero proceeding in a contrived melody lacking the inspiration and freshness of the preceding ethnic genres.
A medley of traditional tunes in a jazzed-up version was presented by saxophonist Albert Pimenta and his group as an inevitable concession to the pop-orientated audience. A highly imaginative percussion solo on the Arab drums was their most enchanting contribution.
Ury Epstein

Johnny Cash faces daunting challenge

By JIM PATTERSON

In his songs, Johnny Cash never shied away from life's dark side. It's all there: temptation, murder, incarceration and just plain loneliness.
Now the singer of "Folsom Prison Blues" and many other hits faces another demon: Parkinson's disease. The condition threatens his ability to sing and play music, which is all he's ever wanted to do. It's the latest of a long list of health challenges that have plagued the 65-year-old singer, including addictions to amphetamines and pain killers, and open-heart surgery in 1988.
Parkinson's attacks the nervous system and erodes motor skills. It is caused by the loss of brain cells which secrete dopamine, a chemical necessary to keep muscle movements smooth and controlled.
It is a progressive and incurable disease, though medication can slow its spread and control symptoms such as shaking and drooling.
Cash's grandfather, William Henry Cash, died of Parkinson's in 1912.

"He knew about it from a physical he had earlier in the fall," Cash's manager Lou Robin said. "He had no symptoms at the time, so he didn't attempt to address it. In his mind, he wasn't going to have it, so that was that."
At his last concert, on October 25 in Flint, Michigan, Cash, almost fell down while bending to retrieve his guitar pick. Two days earlier, he performed in Knoxville, Tennessee. A reviewer for *The Knoxville News-Sentinel* wrote that Cash's timing seemed off and he didn't appear for an encore.
On October 27, he canceled a book tour in New York to promote *Cash: The Autobiography* and announced through a news release that he has Parkinson's.
Since then, he has been in seclusion with his family while getting medical advice and considering his future.
"Johnny feels confident that once the Parkinson's is medically stabilized, he can resume his normal work schedule," Robin said.
Cash normally performs about 80 concerts a year. He also works in the recording studio and films television commercials.
With treatment, he probably could continue performing, said Dr. Thomas Davis, director of the movement disorders clinic at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. "The disease is extremely variable from person to person," said Davis, who is not treating Cash. "Certainly, earlier in the disease many performers could continue doing what they normally would do. Also, early on it can be fairly local. For example, the right hand could be affected enough to hurt guitar-playing, but someone could still sing."
If retirement ever sounded good to Cash, he probably would have done it by now. He doesn't need to work. He has sold over 50 million records, and he and wife June Carter Cash own homes outside Nashville, in Jamaica, the British West Indies, and in Port Richey, Florida.

Through four decades of troubles, triumphs and varying degrees of commercial success, Cash has consistently toured and recorded music. In an interview last year with *The Associated Press*, he said he had a "burning desire" to continue performing.
In the early days of his career, Cash scored rock 'n' roll hits like "Ballad of a Teenage Queen" and was known as an amphetamine-addicted hell-raiser who tore up hotel rooms.
In the 1960s and '70s, he became a country music superstar, weaving folk music, country and gospel into a unique stew. "The Johnny Cash Show" aired on ABC from 1969-71, one of the first network variety shows with a country music performer as host.
He is the only living member of the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. His country music popularity faded in the 1980s, but in recent years a younger generation discovered him and gave his career new life. His audience these days includes senior citizens and people in their 20s.
Since 1994, he has released two CDs on American Recordings, owned by rap-heavy metal producer Rick Rubin. And he's become a hero to younger country music performers who have found themselves, like Cash, unwelcome in the mainstream of country music.
"Johnny Cash is the John Wayne of country music," said Robbie Fulks, a singer-songwriter from Chicago. "He's unapologetic, gigantic and alone. His singing is too unpreppy for country and too dignified for rock. His music at his most powerful makes you wonder if there is a moral quality to human suffering." Cash has suffered many medical problems through the years. A pinched nerve in his jaw causes him constant pain, and he was treated for addiction to morphine in 1984 at the Betty Ford Center for Chemical Dependence.
In 1988, he underwent successful double-bypass heart surgery. The following year he entered a drug-and-alcohol treatment center to guard against a relapse after he stopped taking pain medication.
Although Cash and his family are uneasy about his current condition, they are hopeful the Parkinson's can be stabilized using medication, Robin said. So far, his only symptom has been equilibrium problems. Experimental surgical procedures will be considered, he said. "He's faced a lot of challenges in his life," Robin said. "He thrives on challenges and will deal with this accordingly." If Cash can still perform, chances are he will.
In *Cash: The Autobiography*, he writes that he'd like to "just keel over and die on the stage, under the lights, with my band and my family around me and Fluke (drummer W.S. Holland) still laying down the beat. That's every performer's dream, you know." (AP)

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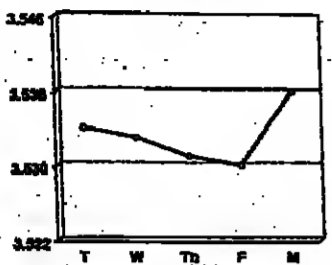
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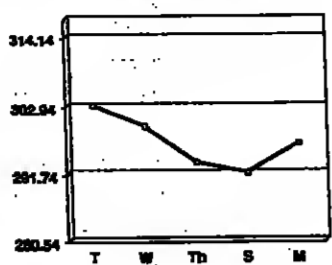
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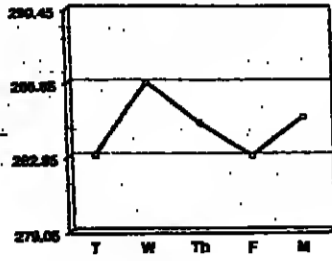


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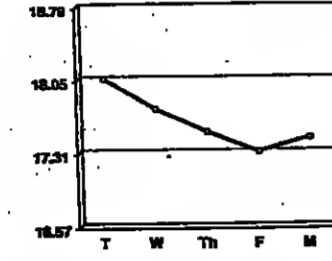
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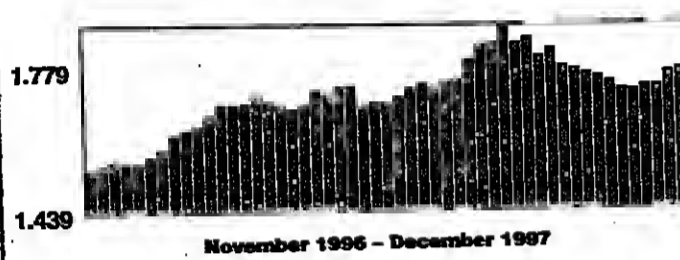


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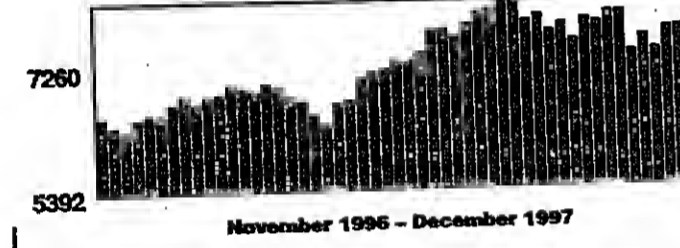
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Credit Suisse praises Israeli liberalization

The private banking arm of Credit Suisse expressed its satisfaction yesterday with the steps that the Israeli authorities have taken to liberalize financial markets. In a statement, the bank said that it "has been impressed by the decisiveness with which the Israeli government and the Bank of Israel have pushed ahead with their reforms." The bank said that the free convertibility of the shekel and the removal of barriers to capital exports will give Israeli investors free access to the international markets. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

Treasury produces first-ever markets' report

The supervisor of capital markets and insurance in the Finance Ministry published yesterday for the first time an extensive annual report for 1996. The paper covers in depth the capital market, government capital raising, insurance, pension funds, mutual funds and saving plans. The report also will be available at the ministry's Internet site and from now on will be published annually. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

OECD predicts lower world growth on back of Far East crisis

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development expects tumbling currencies and rising interest rates in Asia to dampen growth in the world's most industrialized countries both this year and next, and to reduce inflation in 1998. Growth throughout the OECD's members — 29 of the world's largest free-market economies — is expected to be 2.5 percent in 1998, the OECD's chief economist, Ignazio Visco, said yesterday as he presented the organization's semi-annual economic outlook.

That's down from the 2.9% it was expecting before Asia's financial turmoil spread to Korea. Depending on the effect of reduced trade caused by slowing economies in Asia, the OECD said, its members' growth could decline to as low as 1.7% in 1998. That worst case can probably be avoided, because European and US authorities are likely to compensate by slowing down planned increases in interest rates, Visco said. "There are various ways of

compensation, such as easier monetary conditions," Visco said. For the US in particular, which has been the fastest-growing major economy in the world, the Asia crisis may help growth slow down to a more sustainable pace. "This might call for some postponement of any interest rate increases envisaged before the Asian crisis came up," Visco said. The effect on growth will be smaller, with Visco saying growth in other Pacific Rim countries. Without any specific fiscal or monetary policies intended to balance lower exports, Japan's economy could shrink 0.1% in 1997, instead of growing 0.5%. In 1998, growth could be restrained to 0.3% from 1.7%.

The OECD's Pacific members are Japan, Australia, South Korea and New Zealand. Visco said Japan's government should consider slowing its policy of cutting its budget deficit, and should offer a permanent tax cut. The effect forecast for Europe is smaller, with Visco saying growth throughout the European Union being 2.6 or 2.7%, instead of the 2.8% the OECD is predicting before the Asian financial turmoil spread to Korea.

"The trade effects on Europe just aren't that big," Visco said. They could still be enough to jeopardize some countries' efforts to cut their deficits enough to qualify for the European Union's single currency. Many European countries, particularly France, are counting on accelerating growth to get their deficits down to 3% of gross domestic product, the level required to join the economic and monetary union. The OECD's outlook was written based on events up to early November and included the impact of tumbling currencies and financial problems in Thailand and Malaysia. (Bloomberg)

November CPI plunges 0.3%

Economist Ben-Shahar: Inflation may drop to 5% by next year

By DAVID HARRIS

Inflation this year is heading for eight percent, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics, following yesterday's publication of the November consumer price index, which registered a fall of 0.3%.

Within that figure the housing index fell 1.5% and the cost of fruit and vegetables by 3.2%. Economists had predicted the CPI would show an increase of 0.3% - 0.5%. The actual figure was the lowest since May 1992, but the bureau last night warned against being overly optimistic. "This is only one month and should not be taken in isolation," said bureau spokesman David Neumann.

October's CPI increased 1.2% and economists say the two must be seen together. The average for the last two months was close to 0.5%. The key contributors in both months were the housing and fruit and vegetable indexes. Economist Haim Ben-Shahar pointed out that without these two indicators the October and November CPIs would have been far less volatile, and be called for a new method of calculating these indexes.

The housing index is already being reviewed by the bureau but Ben-Shahar is calling for the fruit and vegetable index to be based on a 12-month cycle rather than the existing month-by-month format. Ben-Shahar predicted that 1998 inflation could well fall between 4% and 5% if the correct government policies are followed. This means keeping to tight fiscal policy and not allowing public sector wage agreements to deliver real increases. This, accompanied by ongoing unemployment will in all probability lead to low inflation.

Ben-Shahar is basing this analysis on the events of 1991-92. In 1991, economic conditions were similar to today and inflation ended the year at 18%, but policy changes brought 1992 inflation down to 9.4%. Ben-Shahar added that since then, inflation has remained well below the 1991 level. The housing index decline was the result of a 1.7% decline in the cost of buying an apartment, while food went down 0.1%. Fruits and vegetables dropped in price by an average 3.2% because of seasonal factors, according to the bureau. Principal changes included an 8% decline in fresh vegetables, and with fresh fruit down 1.5%. These were offset to some extent by a 1.3% rise in the prices of frozen vegetables. Education, culture and entertainment costs fell 0.3% last month, with a similar drop in the transport and communications index. Otherwise, there were increases in the costs of clothing and footwear (5.4%), foods other than fruits and vegetables (0.2%), health care (0.2%) and household essential items (0.5%).

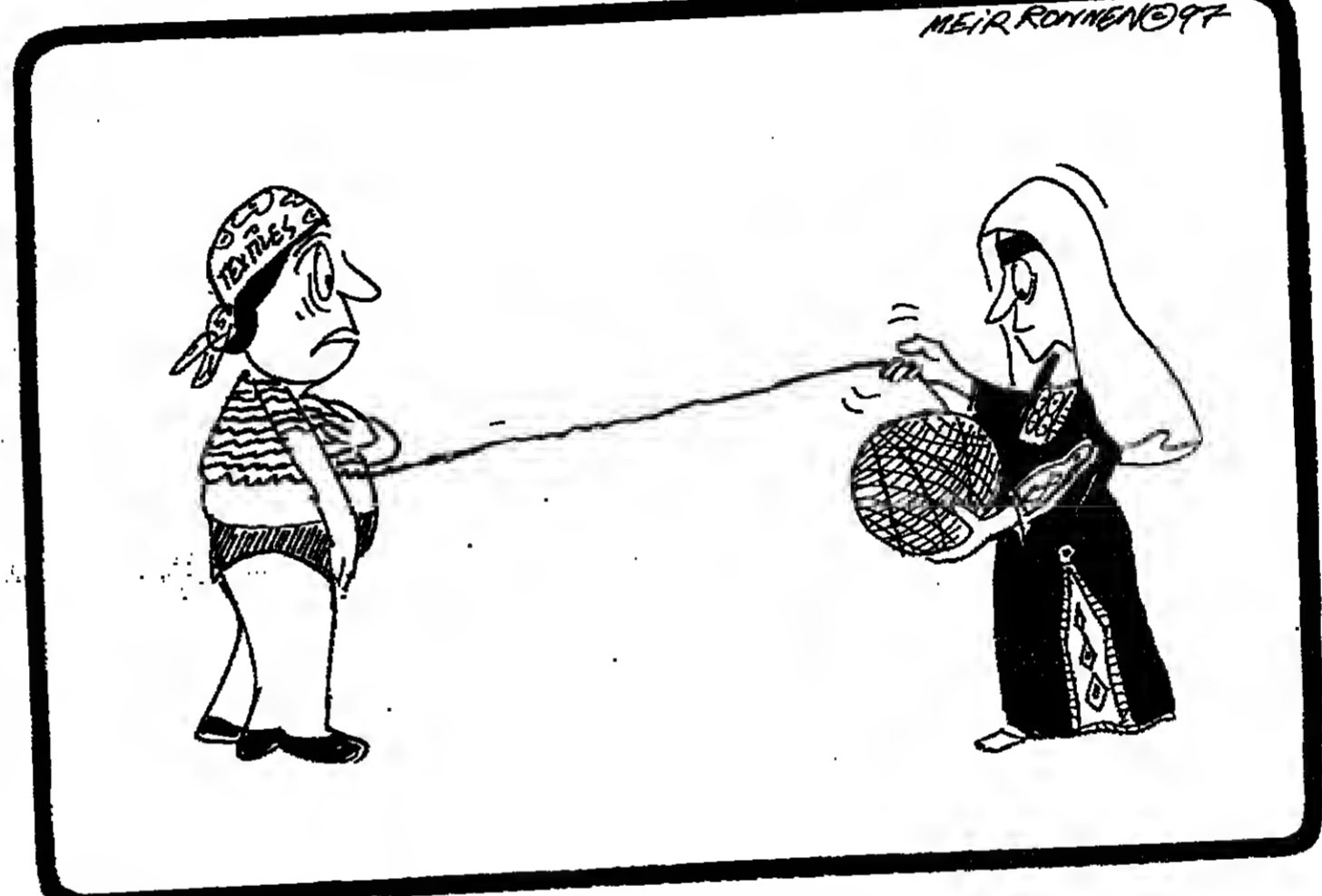
The Manufacturers Association issued a statement last night suggesting the current volatility in the CPI, coupled with the likely inflation rate for 1997, point to a central bank monetary policy that does not work. One of the major factors in inflationary economies — wage increases — will be the subject of the first discussion between the Treasury and Histadrut this afternoon in the new round of wage negotiations. Treasury wage director Yossi Kucic and Shlomo Shani, head of the Histadrut trade union section, are to attempt to reach a settlement for the next two years. The government said it is determined not to offer real wage rises, but to set a maximum increase in line with the CPI.

Eizenstat: Change inflation psyche

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The Israeli public must change its attitude toward inflation if it wants Israel to become a full member in the club of industrialized countries, US Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs Susan Eizenstat said yesterday. "In order for that to happen, it is important that inflationary psychology change. Knowing that Israel had 800 percent, 900% inflation in the mid-80s, many people here are too satisfied with having 10% or 11% inflation. That's not acceptable, and in the end that will retard growth and development. So, what really needs to happen here is a change in inflationary psychology," Eizenstat told Israeli Radio.

He said that the government should run a public campaign to lower inflation expectations in a way that a double-digit annual inflation number would be unacceptable. Eizenstat met yesterday with Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel. Developments in the Israeli economy were discussed. Further talks will be held today, when the Joint Economic Development Group holds its semi-annual meeting. Eizenstat heads the American delegation, which includes senior economists, experts from the economic division of the State Department, and representatives of the US Embassy. The group will receive a review of macro-economic policy, the budget, structural changes, tax policy, monetary policy, and privatization. It will also hold a special discussion on structural changes and the increase in competition.



Donor nations pledge \$750m. for Palestinian Authority projects

By JOSEPH SCHUMAN

PARIS (AP) — Donor countries have committed to \$750 million in grants and loans for development projects in the West Bank and Gaza strip, with another \$150m. in private investment guarantees. That will likely translate into about \$500-600m. actually disbursed in 1998, according to the World Bank, which hosted the donor's annual meeting. The donors also said they would continue to support Palestinian development beyond the current, five-year plan, due to end next year. During the two-day conference, the Israeli delegation committed Israel to supporting the

Palestinian development process. That includes new efforts to give Palestinian workers unlimited access to workplaces in Israel. The new commitments come as the Palestinians near the end of a 1993-1998 development plan for which donors pledged \$3.6b. and delivered about \$1.8b. to different projects. The donor countries want the Palestinian Authority to install a stronger legal framework within its territory and greater government transparency, World Bank officials said earlier. The PA wants funds to carry out about 20 projects in the three-year plan for the West

Bank and the Gaza Strip. It sought \$20m. to bolster a housing plan, \$15m. to help establish a judicial system, \$1.4m. to technical assistance to banks and \$44m. for schools and hospitals. Also among the infrastructure projects for water systems and roads was a Palestinian tourism company's bid to build a hotel in Bethlehem, an undertaking that already has nearly 75% of its funding but needs an additional \$10m.

Among nations participating in the conference were Israel, the US, European Union nations, Japan and Saudi Arabia. The latter four were the biggest donors from the previous development plan. A group of ministers, including Yishai, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, is currently preparing documentation on unemployment, industry, and the currency exchange rate for consideration by the cabinet. In the third quarter, unemployment jumped to 8.1%, the Central Bureau of Statistics recently revealed. There was a 0.1% increase in the number of new immigrant jobseekers last month to 11,000. At the same time, there was a 0.8% reduction in the proportion of female jobseekers — down to 52.5% of the total. The percentage of under 35s registered as jobseekers rose from 44.2% to 44.3% during November. Tomorrow, MK Yehuda Harel (Third Way) will introduce legislation aimed at fighting poverty. Party workers say they have already ensured the program will receive a majority. The plan will include: • The declaration of a national war on poverty throughout the next decade; • The creation of a national authority for the fight against poverty; • Aid to ensure the completion of school and professional education; • Special training programs for the religious and Arab communities. The aims of the program are to increase the number of school pupils passing matriculation exams to 80%; to increase the number 25-44 year olds with more than 13 years of education from 42% to 60%; and to reduce the gaps between the Jewish and Arab communities. The total cost of the project is estimated at NIS 18 billion over 10 years.

US expert: Israeli companies do not understand tourists' needs

By DAVID HARRIS

Israel is losing out on potential tourists because the tourism industry does not understand the real requirements of overseas visitors, competition expert Michael Fairbanks of the US-based Monitor Company said recently. Speaking at the launch of the Center for Middle East Competitive Strategy's regional tourism cluster project, Fairbanks was attacked by leading industry professionals in the audience who claimed they do know what the customer wants and the decline in tourism here is the fault of the slowing peace process. Fairbanks suggested that Israel's tourism marketing is failing. In 1996 the government spent more than any other per capita on marketing, with a total budget of \$35 million. "Don't look at the demographics, look at the best customers for you," urged Fairbanks, who suggested the best approach is to create a high-quality, expensive product, which will attract the biggest-spending tourists. "We talk about numbers of tourists too much and not about the quality of the tourists."

Israel's main marketing strategy — understanding the demographics of visitors — is the least advanced way of reaching the market, Fairbanks added. A more advanced stage is a survey about product segmentation, but the top priority must be understanding "the preferences of a tourist's brain." The center issued a list of recommendations for the improvement of the industry in Israel: • Establishing a forum for strategy management including government officials and representatives of the public and private sectors. • Seeking new tourism options that attract tourists spending \$200 per day. • Testing the needs of tourists from different countries. • Improving government marketing and increasing coordination. • Increasing cooperation with private bodies in the Palestinian Authority-controlled areas, Jordan and Egypt. The center suggests that the most desired tourism product is highly income and high quality, minimally affected by seasonality, away from densely populated areas, easy to market and difficult to replicate.

Tourism Ministry Director-General David Litvak said many of the recommendations are worth examining. The center was established with financial backing from the Dutch government to encourage greater economic cooperation between Israel and its neighbors. The tourism cluster is one of four established to ensure a joint regional approach to the industry. The others have been set up in the chemicals, textiles and multimedia fields.

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Ticket holders to the NIO production of The Emperor of Atlantis and The Seven Deadly Sins can get in free to a concert of chamber music from the Terezin (Theresienstadt) camp by Jewish composers who perished in the Holocaust...

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Cellist Boris Pergamenschikov, violinist Leonidas Kavakos, and pianist Lars Vogt perform the Tchaikovsky piano trio as well as the Brahms second cello sonata and the Kodaly duo for violin and cello tonight at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem...

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

★★★★ ULEE'S GOLD — As the title character in Victor Nunez's vividly small and unhurried film, Peter Fonda is so dry, so stolid,



Peter Fonda is a no-nonsense beekeeper, a Vietnam vet and widower in 'Ulee's Gold.'

so deliberately blank - his long-legged gait slowed by a slight limp, his line delivery flat and functional as an ironing board, his gaze deadened by old pain gone dull - that his performance comes precariously close to bad. This first impression may not be fair and in fact the longer one spends watching Fonda's Ulee Jackson go about his quiet business as a no-nonsense Florida beekeeper, a Vietnam vet and widower, responsible for looking after his two granddaughters, the more impressive the actor's work seems...

TV schedule table with columns for Channel 1, Educational TV, Middle East TV, and Movie Channel. Includes programs like 'News flash', 'Life on the screen', 'Body Electric', 'The Road to Mecca', etc.

ARABIC PROGRAMS and CABLE schedule table. Includes programs like '18:30 Apropos - current', '19:00 News', '19:30 Today's Programs', '6:30 Cartoons', etc.

PRIME TIME TV schedule table with columns 1-8. Includes programs like 'News flash', 'News', 'The Road to Mecca', 'Family Matters', etc.

SECOND SHOWING (8) and RADIO schedule table. Includes programs like '22:10 Le Brasier', '19:00 National Geographic Television', '6:05 Morning Concert', etc.

WEATHER section featuring a map of Israel and surrounding regions with weather forecasts for various cities like Jerusalem, Haifa, and Tel Aviv.

WINNING CARDS section with a graphic of a card and text: 'Home Delivery of THE JERUSALEM POST. Please direct all inquiries to Tel. 177-022-2278.'

Home Delivery of THE JERUSALEM POST advertisement with contact information and a graphic of a newspaper.

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD section with a crossword puzzle grid and clues.

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QUICK CROSSWORD section with a crossword puzzle grid and clues.

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MOVIES section listing various films and their showtimes, including 'Men in Black', 'The Game', 'The Full Monty', etc.

